

Abstract

A method for reducing echo signals in telecommunications
5 systems for the transmission of wanted acoustic signals,
particularly human speech, in which the presence of echo
signals is detected and/or predicted and the detected
and/or predicted echo signals are subsequently suppressed
or reduced is characterized in that the power value of the
10 noise level N in the currently used telecommunications
channel is continuously measured and/or estimated, and that
the degree of reduction of the echo signals to be currently
effected is set continuously and automatically, in
dependence on the current noise level N , according to a
15 predefined function $h(N)$. Reduction of the echo signals
can be thereby effected, inexpensively and with simplest
means, so as to produce an overall acoustic perception of
the transmitted telecommunications signal which sounds as
comfortable as possible to the human ear, avoiding the
20 disadvantage, compared with the prior art, that in the case
of relatively loud, clearly audible noise and
simultaneously large reduction of echo into the background
noise due to the echo suppression, the occurrence of
transient echo peaks causes "holes" to be "punched" into
25 the otherwise uniform background noise, resulting in what
is perceived, in the case of the known methods, as a
disagreeable modulation of the transmitted
telecommunications signal in the speech pauses.